

HB 863 -- COMPARATIVE AUDITS OF STATE AGENCIES

SPONSOR: Allen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Downsizing State Government by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill requires the State Auditor to perform, on a one-time basis, a comparative audit of at least five, but no more than 10, of the largest state agencies and a comparative audit of each chamber of the General Assembly by August 28, 2015. The auditor must develop criteria for fiscal responsibility that are applicable to all agencies regardless of their statutory, legal, or programmatic mandates. The criteria must conform with the provisions of applicable law and the standards for auditing of governmental organizations, programs, activities, and functions established by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Upon completion of the audit, the auditor must submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, all statewide elected officials, the Office of Administration, and all state departments. The report must contain recommendations, including the optimal fiscal practices to be promoted across all state agencies and efficiency or cost saving measures, and recommended changes to agency policy or state law that could reduce the amount of government spending.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill directs the State Auditor to do a one-time comparative audit, similar to audits that are done in the private sector to evaluate departments within a company. The audit will help examine best practices and determine which departments function the best and what those departments are doing to function so efficiently.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Allen; and State Auditor's Office.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.